

Remarks

I. Introduction

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 29, 2005. The Office Action rejected claims 1-9, 11-16 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Patent No. WO 97/47119 (Hansson). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hansson.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 2-6, 11-16, and 19-20, canceled claim 1, and added new claim 21. Claims 17-18 were previously canceled. Claims 2-16 and 19-21 remain for consideration. In response to the finality of the Office Action, Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9, 11-16, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson. In order for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102, **each and every** limitation of the claim must be found either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. PIN/NIP, Inc. v. Platte Chem. Co., 304 F.3d 1235, 1243 (Fed. Cir. 2002). In the present case, Hansson does not show each and every limitation of claims 1-9, 11-16 and 19-20. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The present invention is generally directed to a method and apparatus for transmitting information between a sender and a recipient. The recipient is identified by a voice communication network address and a data communication network address. A voice connection is established on a voice communication network between the sender and the recipient. The recipient has a voice communication network address. A data communication network address is determined for the recipient based on an association between the recipient data communication network address and the recipient's voice communication

network address. Information is transmitted from the sender to the recipient data communication network address via a data network.

New, independent claim 21 is directed to a method of transmitting information from a sender to a recipient. Independent claim 21 claims the limitations of:

determining a recipient data communication network address based on an association between said recipient data communication network address and said recipient's voice communication network address; and
transmitting information from said sender to said recipient data communication network address via a data network.

Hansson is directed to access to telephony networks and Internet protocol (IP) based networks over a shared physical medium, such as a TV distribution network. An object of Hansson is to provide access to services of at least one telephony network and at least one IP based network over a TV distribution network, a shared medium, which is enhanced to provide logical two-way links. For the reasons discussed below, Hansson does not disclose the presently claimed invention under the strict §102 standard as set forth above.

Hansson does not disclose these limitations. Hansson states "Data communication with an IP network is always possible through the TV distribution network 8." (Page 15, lines 1-10). Page 23, line 28 – page 24, line 25 of Hansson states a first user wanting to connect a call to a second user. When the request of establishing a connection with the second user reaches the telephony server, the telephony server recognizes the telephone number as one of the users in a TV distribution network. The call is then forwarded directly to the correct end user without passing the public PSTN network. Hansson's invention is therefore directed to a "method to provide access to services of a multitude of different communication service networks over a TV distribution network characterized by using the IP protocols as an internal multiplexing and transport mechanism. (See Hansson's claim 1).

Hansson does not, however, disclose “determining a recipient data communication network address based on an association between said recipient data communication network address and said recipient’s voice communication network address” as claimed in new claim 21. Hansson discloses, “mapping the external telephone number (or a representation of it) on the internal address of the NT 5” (Hansson, page 13) but does not disclose **determining a data communication network address based on an association between the data communication network address and the recipient’s voice communication network address.**

New claim 21 also claims “**transmitting information from the sender to the recipient data network address via a data network**”. Hansson states that, “information from e.g. the PC 2 may be presented at the TV set 3 as visual information, either in a separate free TV channel or overlaid any other TV channel.” (Hansson page 24). Although Hansson states using a TV to present visual information, Hansson does not disclose transmitting information from the sender to a recipient data network address that is also associated with a voice address. These distinctions render Hansson unable to anticipate claim 21 under §102.

Independent claim 13 is allowable for reasons similar to those described above in connection with claim 21. In particular, claim 13 is a computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for transmitting information between a sender and a recipient, the recipient being identified by a voice communication network address and a data communication network address. Claim 13, as amended, contains the limitations of:

- means for determining a recipient data communication network address based on an association between said data communication network address and said recipient’s voice communication network address; and
- means for transmitting information from said sender to said recipient data communication network address via a data network.

For the reasons described above, Hansson does not disclose means for determining a recipient data communication network address based on an association between the recipient data communication network address with the recipient's voice communication network address. Further, as stated above, Hansson does not disclose means for transmitting information from said sender to said recipient data communication network address via a data network. Thus, Hansson does not anticipate each and every limitation of claim 13.

For the reasons discussed above, independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over Hansson. Dependent claims 2-12, 14-16, and 19-20 depend upon an allowable independent claim and are therefore also allowable. In addition, these dependent claims add additional patentable subject matter and are also allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Dependent claim 3 claims the limitation of the recipient authorizing the transmitting by remaining on the connection for a **designated** period of time. The Office Action states that Hansson discloses this limitation on page 17, lines 18-23. Page 17, lines 18-23 states that Hansson's TV Internet Protocol Network Terminal (NT) detects an on hook condition of the telephone of user A and then the connection to user B is terminated. The Office Action states that Hansson discloses this limitation because Hansson's "recipient A authorizes caller B to broadcast/send information for the duration/'necessary time' by maintaining the connection between recipient A and caller B (a designated period of time that recipient A does not terminate the connection". (Office Action, page 4).

Hansson does not, however, disclose authorizing a transmission of information by remaining on the connection for a **designated period of time**. Hansson does not disclose **designating** a set period of time to remain on a call and then, after the **designated time elapses**, allowing the transmission to occur. Therefore, dependent claim 3 is allowable.

Dependent claims 6-8 relate to changing the information transmitted to the recipient data communication network address based on input received from the

recipient or sender. The input can be a signal transmitted across the voice communication network or transmitted across the data network. Hansson does not disclose these limitations. The Office Action states that Hansson discloses these limitations at page 24, lines 16-18. Page 24, lines 16-18 of Hansson states that "it would be possible to tap a TV channel and send the information e.g. to the PC 2 or other device with capabilities for visual presentation." Hansson does not, however, disclose changing the information being transmitted to the recipient data communication network address based on input received from the recipient or sender. Therefore, dependent claims 6-8 are allowable.

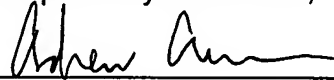
III. No New Matter has Been Added

The amendments to claims 2-6, 11-16, and 19-20 and new claim 21 do not add new matter. Support for the claim amendments are shown throughout the Specification and at least at page 6, lines 118-128, page 7, lines 143-153, page 7, line 161 – page 9, line 202, and Figs. 1-3.

IV. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, all pending claims are allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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